

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose the amendment too but probably for a different reason, because I want to oppose LB 396. Maybe \$17 is only \$17 to some of you folks but it means quite a little to others. I think that this is property tax relief. And so many times on this floor we talk about property tax relief and how we ought to increase it rather than decrease it and here we are taking the bill that allows property tax relief, perhaps small but it is property tax relief. So I would just urge you to oppose the amendment and then oppose the bill when we get to reading it on Final Reading. I don't think that LB 396 is going to pass this morning and then as the lottery bill goes through, well, we can increase the amount that goes into this property tax relief fund. I think that this should be approximately 20-25 million dollars as the lottery bill is written now. So I would urge you to oppose this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Sounds like the appropriate place to discuss the homestead exemption, which I have always favored, but I would like to ask, if it is not the appropriate place it hasn't inhibited anybody else, I would like to ask Senator Johnson a question if I could, however.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Would you respond please?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes.

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Johnson, as you see you have kind of gotten in between two significant factions of attitudes or thought on this issue. Couldn't what you are trying to do be accomplished maybe as an amendment to the lottery bill since it does have those kinds of committee amendments to then authorize the kinds of mechanisms that you are concerned about on that particular piece of legislation. That could be done, and I doubt very much, or I hope the Speaker would not find that inappropriate and maybe let these two powerful factions fight it out without you being in between?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I imagine it could be done on the lottery bill, Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: That was your opportunity to say that it might be a better place to do it. I'm not sure that you have said that.